

minute and to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I had not intended to give a 1-minute at this point in time, but the previous speaker is brandnew to the House, and very frankly, he is incorrect, totally, absolutely incorrect. I hope his advice as a physician was far better for his patients than his advice just now in his 1-minute.

The extension of the debt limit has to do with policies that were signed by Ronald Reagan and George Bush, as well as previously adopted policies of this Congress. Not prospective. Not prospective.

Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman does not want to pay Social Security on March 1, I understand that. He can get up and say that. If he does not want to pay veterans' benefits that are committed and expected, I understand that, and he can get up and say that. But to imply for 1 second that extending the debt limit so that America can pay its bills that is has already incurred is somehow like giving a person that has a gambling disorder additional money is totally, absolutely inaccurate and unfortunate.

#### REVIEW OF PAST DEBT EXTENSIONS

(Mr. CHRYSLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHRYSLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. SMITH], my neighbor and good friend.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I think it would be good for all of us to review exactly where we have been in debt extensions: Since 1980, H.R. 7428, a debt extension with increases in the import fee. In 1985, H.R. 3721, a debt ceiling increase with an increase in the cigarette tax and expanded benefits for unemployed.

In House Resolution 372, debt extension with a Gramm-Rudman attached. In 1986, debt extension with budget reconciliation, with a large increase in social spending.

In 1987, a long-term debt limit extension with liberal modifications to Gramm-Rudman. It goes on and on. We have tied everything in the past to debt ceilings that we wanted to get a President that did not pay attention. This is going to continue.

#### APPEAL FOR A CLEAN DEBT LIMIT EXTENSION

(Mr. STUPAK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, the previous speaker has been here only 3 years, the same as I, but in the last several months he voted three times to extend the debt limit.

In his budget reconciliation bill, in these budget bills, in these horrendous

bills that the other side put forward to give \$245 billion in tax breaks to the wealthiest and cut Medicare and Medicaid, Mr. Speaker, if we look in those bills, three times my Republican colleagues have already voted to extend the debt limit. So what is the problem? Give us a cleaner CR. Let us increase the debt limit.

The other speakers would say we are spending money prospectively. Brimley School District in the Upper Peninsula is waiting for its \$600,000 impact aid payment it cannot have because the other side will not pass a full, clean CR. They will not pass a debt limit extension. They will just sit on their hands as this school district has to go out and borrow money to stay afloat; while they stand here and say, "We never did this." But my Republican colleagues have done it three times already this year.

Mr. Speaker, let us be honest with the American people. Let us get a clean bill up here. Let us get a clean CR and let us raise the debt limit, as they have already voted to do three times.

#### CONGRESS SHOULD SUPPORT SANCTIONS AGAINST CASTRO

(Mr. DIAZ-BALART asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I take the floor today because a most distinguished colleague of ours took the floor earlier this morning and said that he had a meeting with dissidents in Havana, Cuba, last week, and he mentioned a couple of names of dissidents who were opposed to our sanctions against Castro.

Mr. Speaker, it is not fair to mention those names and not mention that in that same meeting, in that same meeting, the most prestigious members of the internal opposition of Cuba came out in favor of sanctions and in favor of our Helms-Burton bill. I think that is only fair to mention.

It is also fair, and I have got the names. I only have 1 minute, so I will submit them into the RECORD. I have the names of those people who got up and told our colleague that they supported sanctions. Also, another most prestigious member, Osvaldo Paya Sardinas, when an aide of our colleague wanted a show of hands, said, "That's an internal intervention into our affairs and if the Congressmen of the United States want to support Cuba, they should support the internal opposition, support democracy, and start getting on the issue or putting pressure on Castro," like we have done on other dictatorships in the past, such as South Africa or Chile.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to set this record straight.

#### RUSSIAN ROULETTE POLITICS CAN BRING NATION DOWN

(Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, let us recognize what is going to happen in the next few weeks if this debt limit is not extended. We are going to raise the cost, if the interest rates in this country go up just 1 percent, the average cost of a home mortgage will go up \$1,200. The cost of borrowing by the Federal Government will go up by \$150 billion; more than our entire education budget in the course of the next 7 years.

Mr. Speaker, my Republican colleagues are talking about fiddling with the fundamental economic system that this world has developed to pay its bills. What we can have here is the extremism of the Republicans. Not that they want just a balanced budget, which I want; not just a balanced budget scored by CBO, which I want; but, they want their particular version of the balanced budget or else they say they are going to send the entire debt of the United States of America into default.

Mr. Speaker, it is blackmail. It is the kind of Russian roulette politics that brings a nation down, and does not make it greater. We have a Constitution in this country that divides power between the President and the Congress, the House and the Senate. Let that policy of compromise move forward. Do not let one particular group of freshmen Republicans put their extremist views on the people of this country.

#### MEMBERS' PIQUE OVER TRAVEL OFFICE FIRINGS DOES NOT INCLUDE PRE-CHRISTMAS FIRINGS OF HOUSE EMPLOYEES

(Mr. MORAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday about two dozen Republican Members of the House Government Operations Committee told the former members of the travel office how mortified they were, how terrible they felt that they had lost their jobs. Of course, all of them but Mr. Dale have gotten other jobs. Mr. Dale has some serious management problems and some indictable offenses that he is dealing with. But none of these Members raised a pique when 11 people who worked for the Clerk's office were fired before Christmas. One guy had four little children. They do not care what happened to him.

Mr. Speaker, they were given no justification; just fired so that the House management would not have to pay for the comp time those people had earned by working late hours. That is why. Because we voted to apply private sector laws to the Congress. Because we did,